companies are agreeable to renegotiate their claims as well as the counter claims of GEB for resolving the disputes. Accordingly, GEB has been advised to depute a team of senior officers to coal companies to sort out the claims of coal companies and also the counter claims of GEB.

Production and consumption of Coal

2031. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any data of total production and consumption of coal in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much coal is being imported every year and from which countries; and

(d) the details, country-wise and name of the importer agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Total coal production and coal offtake in the country during 1996-97 are as under:—

(million tonnes)

Production	Offtake
285.66	286.16

(c) and (d) As per the existing import policy, coal can be freely imported and such imports are generally resorted to by the actual consumers of coal without any reference to the Ministry of Coal. However as per the information available in the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, the quantum of coal imported during 1996-97 was 13.25 million tonnes (provisional). Out of this 9.59 million tonnes (provisional) of coking coal was imprted by steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) and Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO). Countries from where bulk of the coal is being imported are Australia, New Zealand, Peoples' Republic of China, South Africa and the USA.

Approval of coal mining plan

2032. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mining plan has to be approved by Central Government before a captive mining lease for Coal can be granted by concerned State Government;

(b) whether the norm stipulates that the coal from such mines for power sector would be used for captive generation and not for sale outside;

(c) whether in the case of Central India Coal Company (CICC) a Captive Coal Company in Chandrapur for Bhadrawati Power Plant in Maharashtra (a) and (b) above have been followed; and

(d) whether CICC is proposing to sell the mined coal to users other than Bhadrawati Power Plant. If yes, whether the same is being prohibited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Before a lease for mining coal can be granted by the concerned State Government, a mining plan has to be approved by the Central Government and the prior permission of the Central Government for grant of a lease must be sought for and granted by the Central Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the case of Central India Coal Company the mining plan was approved by the Central Government and approval communicated on 13-9-96. The State Government has sought the prior permission of the Central Government for grant of mining lease but this has so far not been accorded.